

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Dec. 20, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



Library holiday hours

The Aberdeen Area post library will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1.

On Dec. 26 and 27 the library will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Edgewood Area branch library will be open Dec. 20 and 21 from 11:30 to 6:30 p.m., but closed Dec. 22 to Jan. 1.

Christmas hours for Urgent Care Clinic

The Urgent Care Clinic at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be open on Christmas Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our goal is meet the needs of our soldiers and beneficiaries and also give our Urgent Care Clinic staff an opportunity to celebrate Christmas with their families and loved ones. Other holiday and weekend hours will remain the same from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be made through nurse triage at 410-278-1751.

There will be no sick call for the period Dec. 20 through Jan. 2 in the Troop Medical Clinic. If an appointment is needed, please call 1-888-999-5195 to see a provider in the General Medicine Clinic.

Post Theater hours

The Post Theater will be closed Friday, Dec. 15 and Saturday, Dec. 16 due to the annual U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' EXODUS program.

The theater will be closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 5, and will reopen Saturday, Jan. 6.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine will host APG's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Prayer Breakfast, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Top of the Bay. Guest speaker will be the Honorable Judge Angela M. Eaves, District Court of

See SHORTS, page 2

Garrison plans to reshape soon

By George Mercer
GAPG Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground, announced plans for a reorganization of its operations activities on Dec. 6, at a pair of work force briefings.

The reshape plans are in response to a variety of budget reductions and to Department of the Army decisions directing the garrison to proceed with the ongoing A-76 Commercial Activities study, said Col. Robert J. Spidel, garrison commander.

"Things have changed a great deal since we put together our previous CA package," Spidel said. "We've seen four years of budget and other turmoil, including attrition, a number of mission changes and the privatization of some of our facilities. We're not the same garrison we were then, and the Army's expectations are different today. We owe it to ourselves and to the Army to make sure we respond correctly.

Foremost on the garrison's agenda is responding to serious budget reductions.

"We've been hit hard for several years now," Spidel said. "We're all aware of the 42 percent cut in family housing dollars. We've also got to deal with substantial reductions in overall base operations funding, including significant cuts in maintenance and repair funds and environmental dollars.

According to Spidel, his staff is already working on the reorganization plan.

"We have to be realistic about what we can do with the resources available," he said. "Among the issues that will have to be addressed will be adjustment for the tremendous attrition we've had over the past

See GARRISON, page 6

Kitchen fire highlights need for safety review

By Sheila Little
APG News

A grease fire in a single soldier barracks on Aberdeen Proving Ground caused over \$1,800 of damage and resulted in minor injuries on Dec. 4.

Andre Fournier, fire protection specialist for the APG Fire Department, said the lunch time fire in a common kitchen area of barracks building 4210 is still under investigation but is thought to have resulted from unattended cooking. Grease caught fire on the stove, and the smoke alarm alerted the cook who returned to the kitchen to find the top of the stove in flames. The soldier, who attempted to put out the fire, was treated for smoke inhalation at Harford Memorial Hospital and released later that day.

Fournier urges all residents and employees of APG to use caution throughout the year, but be especially diligent this time of year as more appliances and extension cords are used and people renew their interest in cooking and baking for the holidays.

He suggested such fires can be avoided by following a few safety precautions.

"When cooking with grease,

have a lid close by to smother flames," Fournier said. "Smothering a grease fire is the best way to take care of it. Baking soda can also act as an extinguishing agent."

Fournier also said being attentive and in the room the entire time you are cooking is the best way to avoid major problems. "When cooking, never leave a stove unattended," he said.

He suggested injuries and damage can be alleviated if people make it a practice to review guidelines on how to react in the event of a fire.

Small fires can often be put out by cutting off the oxygen supply and smothering the flames.

For grease fires, turn off the appliance, use a lid to smother the flames, or use baking soda to douse the flames.

For small electrical fires, unplug the appliance immediately and use a multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher. Never use water on grease or electrical fires.

If there is any doubt as to the size of the fire, alert others in the area and evacuate, then call the fire department by dialing 911 from another location.

See FIRE, page 13



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Staff Sgt. Nina Hammonds, a flutist and vocalist, sings "Evening in December" during the 389th Army Band Holiday Concert. Hammonds returned later in the show with the Stage Band to belt out a jazzy rendition of "Sleigh Ride."

Army Band spreads cheer with Holiday Concert 2000

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Be it classical, rock and roll, jazz or holiday sing-along, the 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) does not disappoint. In its annual Holiday Concert, held Dec. 9 at the Post Theater, the band delivered a variety of sounds that captivated an appreciative audience. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jerry L. Standridge, the band's commander, thanked the community for its support in his holiday message.

"I am extremely proud of my 37 soldiers and their participation in approximately 200 commitments this year," Standridge wrote, adding that the band performed at formal concerts, parades, ceremonies, socials, funerals and memorial services.

Standridge's wife, Diane served as the evening's narrator.

Several groups and individuals gave standout performances.

Staff Sgt. Nina Hammonds, a flutist and vocalist wowed listeners with a soulful delivery of "Evening in December," and "Let it Snow," then returned later with the Stage Band for a jazzy "Sleigh Ride," arranged by Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Malone.

Staff Sgt. Robert Dietz, a newcomer to APG, sang two songs, "The Christmas Song" and "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," as he played the

guitar with no accompaniment. His voice, with its throaty smoothness, went over well with the audience. The highlight of the evening may have been when Standridge introduced the "hardest working ensemble in the band," the Jazz Combo. Malone, Dietz and Staff Sgt. Russell King on keyboards performed a funky "Little Drummer Boy" and an even funkier "Jingle Bells" Jerry Lee Lewis-style near the end of the program.

The audience and band members were tapping their feet to the beat that ended in a crescendo of electricity that nearly brought the house down. It was delightful.

On a milder note, the Brass Quintet performed for the first time during a holiday concert.

The quintet soothed the classical ear with Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and "Trepak" from the Nutcracker Suite, arranged by Sgt. Kevin Young.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bauerle arranged the songs "The Miracle of Lights" and "a Fantasy on Silent Night," a smooth, melancholy arrangement that enhanced the age-old melody loved by millions all over the world.

Augmenting the band was Capt. Carolina Wilcox, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Meade, Dann L. Reynolds, the husband of band member Staff Sgt. Kay Reynolds, and William Smith of Aberdeen High School.



Photo by STAFF SGT. CARL WILKINSON

Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy cadet Richard McArthur, left, helps Seyon Reid put the finishing touches on his uniform before the 2000 Challenge Invitational competition held Dec. 4 to 8 in Fort Stewart, Ga. The cadets came away with a first-place win in the multi-category contest that featured drill competitions between teams from Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico. See page 13.

Adopt a soldier for the holidays

By Sheila Little
APG News

If you have been around Aberdeen Proving Ground for more than a year, the mid-December departure of young soldiers does not surprise you.

Each year, hundreds of young troops attending Advanced Individual Training courses at the Ordnance Center and Schools are free to go home to their loved ones for approximately three weeks around the holidays. This year, exodus leave will run from Dec. 20 to Jan. 2.

What you may not realize is that some soldiers stay on the installation because their families live thousands of miles away, making travel difficult and expensive. Some have no families. The soldiers who stay form NOEL Company, which stands for Not On Exodus Leave.

The soldiers in NOEL Company, generally about two dozen 18 to 21 year-olds, perform routine duties on the installation, participate in recreational

trips, go sight-seeing, attend movies, and watch or play sports. The company also sponsors a party for them in the unit day room.

But nothing takes the place of home.

1st Sgt. Robert Bartholomew of Company C, 16 Ordnance Battalion, is serving as first sergeant for NOEL Company this year.

Bartholomew said that although there are many fun group activities planned, little can take the place of a family.

"We keep them busy, but would like to see them participate in religious services, family dinners, or other holiday activities," he said.

The soldiers, many of them away from home for the first time, have no opportunity to go out with their family and select a Christmas tree, attend services with their loved ones, go caroling and attend parties with hometown friends, or enjoy a big

See ADOPT, page 14



Tip of the Week

MAKE "GREEN" CHOICES WHILE SHOPPING. BUY PRODUCTS WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF PACKAGING.



For more information on pollution prevention, call Michelle Guitard, APG Pollution Prevention Program, 410-306-2273

Post Shorts

SHORTS, from front page

Maryland, District 9, Harford County. Tickets go on sale Dec. 11 and cost \$7 per person.

To purchase tickets for the breakfast, contact the following unit representatives: Master Sgt. James Davis, OC&S, 410-278-2529; Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Yelder, 61st Ordnance Brigade, 410-278-5598; Staff Sgt. Michael Jackson, KUSAHC, 410-278-1749; Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Johnson, DTC, 410-278-1053; Sgt. 1st Class Shelton Torbert, SBCCOM, 410-278-1534; Sgt. 1st Class Mitchelen Bigman, NCOA, 410-278-7381 or David Burbey, APG Garrison, 410-278-1145.

Re-Nu-It center closes for holidays

The RE-NU-IT centers in the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 26 through Friday, Dec. 29. The Aberdeen Area center will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 8 a.m. and the Edgewood Area center will re-open on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 8 a.m.

Christmas tree pickup for housing occupants

Monday, Jan. 8, is the date for Christmas tree pickup in the Aberdeen and Edgewood housing areas. If you have any questions, call Chris Barwick at 410-278-4747.

Bowling Center offers specials for December

The Bowling Center is now offering specials for the month of December. Enjoy 10% off all balls, bags, and shoes at the pro shop, AND all bowling from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday is only \$1.00.

Interested in having an office party at the bowling center? Just call to set something up.

Sign up now at the Bowling Center for the Cosmic New Years Party from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cost is \$15.00 per person. This includes shoes, bowling and snacks. Snacks will include crackers/cheese, chips/dips, peanuts, chicken wings and meatballs. There will also be noisemakers and a raffle. So make your reservation now!

The Bowling Center would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

EA Thrift Shop Consignment Room

Effective Jan. 2, the Consignment Room of the Edgewood Area Thrift Shop will close at 1 p.m. on Thursdays, because of a shortage of afternoon volunteers. For more information, call the EA Thrift Shop at 410-676-4733.

Tutors available at Aberdeen Area Youth Center

Wendy Haslup is available for tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Aberdeen Youth Center. Call her there Monday through Friday to set up an appointment, 410-278-4995 or 410-278-9061. For more information about our tutoring program and other activities, contact the Aberdeen Youth Center at 410-278-4995.

AA Thrift Shop manager needed

The Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop is accepting applications for manager through Jan. 4. This position is salaried. Retail and personnel experience is preferred. For more information, stop by the Thrift Shop during regular hours on Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call the shop at 410-272-8572, or contact Moira Kearney, Thrift Shop chairperson, at 410-297-9614.

Gift wrapping at Harford Mall for charity

Representatives from the American Medical Center Cancer Research Center and the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology Center will be wrapping gifts at the Harford Mall 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., through Sunday, Dec. 24. Corporate orders are invited. Celebrate your holidays by supporting cancer research. All gifts are welcome, including those not purchased at the mall. For information call 410-879-5015.

Army Band takes holiday leave

The 389th Army Band (AMC's Own) will be on leave Dec. 20 through Jan. 3 and, therefore, not available for commitments. Any questions regarding scheduling the Band should be referred to Judy Michalski, 278-7953/2711.

Hoyle Health and Fitness Center

If you are a civilian and want to participate in an organized fitness program in the Edgewood Area, call the Hoyle Health and Fitness Center for information on the Civilian Fitness Program. The CFP is a six-month, one-time program established to help employees establish a fitness program. One of our staff members will take you through a health risk analysis and develop a one-on-one exercise program geared just for your exercise needs. The

fitness center is a full service facility with aerobic and toning-classes, state-of-the art equipment that includes treadmills, recumbent bikes, steppers, elliptical cross trainers, rowers, and cross-country ski machines. We also have free weights and full-circuit weight machines. Stop in today to set up your personal training program. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. For further information call 410-436-7134/7135.

AA Health and Fitness Center

Active duty and retired military, civilian employees, retired employees and their family members 14 to 21 years of age or contractors located on post, are eligible to join the Fitness Center located in building 320 in the Aberdeen Area. A full line of cardiovascular equipment, free weights and full-circuit weight machines is available. Need a personal one-on-one program? Call and set up an appointment today with one of our staff members. We also offer aerobic and toning classes daily with a certified instructor. All these services are included in one low price. Our hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 410-278-9725/9759.

NECPOC announces leadership courses

Leadership Skills for Non-Supervisors will be offered Apr. 10-11, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. Tuition is \$245.

This course is designed for team leaders, office coordinators, special emphasis program managers and all non-supervisory employees who want to enhance their leadership skills. It includes instruction in handling different personality types, the art of giving constructive feedback that minimizes defensiveness, effective delegation, overcoming conflict without making enemies; and building teams that work well together and get results. Nominations must be received in the NECPOC, HRDD, by Jan. 19. For more information contact Karin Hancock, 410-306-0065 or e-mail her at Karin.Hancock@cpocner.apg.army.mil.

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

Thrift Savings Plan is open for changes to enrollment until Jan. 31. During the open enrollment period employees may elect to enroll in TSP or change their current TSP deduction. Thrift Savings Plan Open Season Update Pamphlets will be distributed to agency administrative offices upon receipt in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Employees must now contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) to make an open season change. Enrollment form TSP-1 can no longer be completed or processed by the CPAC. Employees may call the ABC-C at 1-877-276-9287 or access the website at www.abc.army.mil to enroll in TSP or make a change.

Employees who wish to change the way their TSP account balance is currently invested must request a TSP Interfund Transfer. Interfund transfers can be made up to once a month by calling the ThriftLine at 504-255-8777 or by completing a TSP-30, Interfund Transfer Request, available on the TSP website, www.tsp.gov. The TSP website includes current TSP information, forms and publications.

Register now for HCC spring credit courses

Credit classes for Harford Community College's Spring 2001 semester begin on Wednesday, Jan. 17. Registration is now taking place in the College's Chesapeake Center. Sign up Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students may also register for courses by mail or FAX through Jan. 16. at 410-836-4169.

In addition, registration is accepted at HCC's Aberdeen Proving Ground office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and alternate Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-272-2338.

For more information about registering for spring credit courses at HCC, call the Office of Records and Registration at 410-836-4222 or 410-879-8920, ext. 222.

For more information or to obtain forms, see the Spring Schedule of Credit Classes that was mailed to all Harford County residents. Students can also access the Schedule of Classes at www.harford.cc.md.us.

HCC will be closed for winter break Dec. 23 to Jan. 1

KUSAHC tobacco cessation

Kirk will help you kick butts during four health clinic tobacco cessation classes to be conducted on Thursdays from 12 to 1 p.m. on Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Training will be conducted in the Preventive Medicine conference room (room A-12), Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. All military beneficiaries are eligible. Class size is limited, so

please preregister. Attendance at all sessions is recommended.

For more information and to schedule for the first class, please call Preventive Medicine at 410-278-1964.

Family Housing Office hours

The Family Housing Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The office participates in the compressed work schedule, with every other Friday off. For more information call 410-306-2010.

ACS needs volunteer drivers

American Cancer Society needs volunteer drivers to participate in its Road to Recovery program. Volunteers drive cancer patients to and from treatment. You must own a car, have a safe driving record and have a few spare hours per month. Call 1-888-670-0427 and find out more about becoming a volunteer.

Help available for workers' compensation

The Workers' Compensation Program is located in the Installation Safety Division, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, building 4304. The office is open for walk-in assistance on Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, the office will schedule appointments.

For more information contact the Worker's Compensation Office at 410-306-1091 or program manager, Susie Ashby, at 410-306-1057.

PTA needs volunteers

Roye-Williams Elementary School needs volunteers for the PTA. You do not need to be a parent to volunteer. For more information or to volunteer, call Tom DiCuirci, 410-272-5349, or Sue Osborne, 410-273-5536. Your support will help make this year a great success for our children.

Help line available for parents

When parents and caregivers feel like the stress of child rearing is at its limit, call the Family Stress Line. Whether you are concerned about how to discipline or manage your adolescent, worried about school performance, or any stress related to parenting, the StressLine is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-243-7337. Family Stress Line, a program of The Family Tree child abuse prevention agency, is a confidential hotline. Professionally trained, non-judgmental and caring volunteers are available to help you.

Legal Office offers advice

For emergency legal advice, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Garrison Legal Assistance Office continues to see eligible clients on a walk-in basis every Thursday in building 310, wing 2, 8 to 11 a.m. For further information, please contact the Legal Assistance Office at 410-278-1583/1584. For legal advice that does not involve an emergency, contact the Legal Assistance Office to schedule an appointment.

Report vending machine problems

If you are experiencing problems with a snack or Coca-Cola vending machine operated by the Post Restaurant Fund, ask your building custodian to call 410-278-3520, or send an e-mail to Kathleen Decker at kdecke@apg.army.mil.

Passport photos taken on Thursdays

The APG Garrison Photo Lab takes passport photos on Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m.. on a walk-in basis. For information about photographic services on post, call 410-278-3391.

Susquehanna Toastmasters meet

Susquehanna Toastmasters meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, at Top of the Bay, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. For more information call Doug Strand, 410-306-0813.

Santa Claus suits for rent

Santa Claus suits are available for rent at the Outdoor Recreation Equipment Resource Center, Bldg 2407, for just \$10 per day! We have expanded our stock of suits to accommodate the APG Community. Suits include jacket, wide black belt, pants, boot covers, white gloves, beard, wig and hat. Contact center personnel at 410-278-4124 for more information or to reserve your suit.

Rent ski equipment at APG

Looks like Ol' Man Winter is going to cooperate this year and give us perfect weather for skiing and snowboarding. The Equipment Resource Center has downhill and cross country skis, boots and poles, ski bibs and pants, and ski car racks, along with new snowboards to help you on your way to local ski resorts. Downhill sets are available on a daily or season basis, and we offer discount fees on rentals of four or more days. For more information call 410-278-4124.

APG News

The *APG News*, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *APG News* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 324, Second Floor, AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5005; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; fax it to 410-278-2570; or e-mail it to editor@apg.army.mil. Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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Inclement weather closing announcements

Ten area radio stations and four television stations will provide Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel with information on post closings when the APG commander determines that weather and road conditions are too hazardous to conduct business as usual.

Announcements should begin at about 5 a.m. Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically. The radio and television stations are:

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCY	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

Acquisiton Center announces name change

By Sheila Little
APG News

Personnel from the former U.S. Army Materiel Command Aquisition Center held a ribbon cutting in the lobby of building 4118, Nov. 30, acknowledging a name change to the U. S. Army Robert Morris Acquisition Center.

Michael Parker, deputy to the commander of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, served as master of ceremonies for the brief ceremony introducing the official name change. Parker introduced those serving on the board of directors and noted the new chairman. Members of the board are Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, installation commander and commander of SBCCOM, Brig. Gen. Dean R. Ertwine, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, Sally Flavin, assistant deputy chief of staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, and new board chairman Dr. Robert W. Whalin, director, Army Research Laboratory.

Parker explained that the acquisition center underwent the name change after downsizing caused the center to “rethink how we did business.”

He said the AMC Aquisition Center was often misconstrued as



Photo by LA'MONT HARBISON

Participating in a ribbon cutting at the Robert Morris Acquisition Center on Nov. 30 are, from the left, Michael Parker, deputy to the commander for the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, Dr. Robert W. Whalin, U.S. Army Research Laboratory director, Brig. Gen. Dean R. Ertwine, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, and Sally Flavin, assistant deputy chief of staff for Research, Development and Acquisition.

a center working primarily for the Army Materiel Command and not for all customers. The name change, in recognition of one of America’s founding fathers, is designed to dispel the misconcep-

tion that AMC is in charge of all acquisitions.

“Our mission is to provide contracting and purchasing services, provide contract post award administration, develop and

implement procurement policies and procedures, and provide technical guidance to all customers in their preparation and submission of procurement documents,” Parker said. He added that at the same time, the acquisition center will ensure that the public trust, government interest and customer satisfaction are sustained, and operate as a center of excellence and model for other acquisition centers.

Whalin reviewed the life of the acquisition center’s namesake. He said Morris’ history as “the first contracting officer for the Army,” and his historical title as financier of the revolution, made it an easy decision to name the center after him.

Born in England in 1734, Morris came to Maryland with his family at the age of 13. At age 20 he moved to the Philadelphia area, going into business with Thomas Willing. Together, he and Willing ran one of the most prosperous mercantile firms in the colonies. A signer of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Morris provided moral and material support to George Washington. During the revolutionary war, he risked much of his own money in buying needed armaments for the colonial forces. After the war, when the colonies realized they

were on the brink of bankruptcy, the Continental Congress appointed him superintendent of finances. For nearly four years Morris instituted strict policies, including collecting taxes from the colonies and securing a loan from France, in a successful effort to improve the finances of the young nation.

Whalin said the acquisition center will continue in the vein of Morris, offering quality assistance to customers, and doing the best job possible for all concerned.

“It’s people that make things work, and everyone here is very customer-conscious,” Whalin said. He commended employees for their efforts, and said the future continues to look bright. “Everyone is pulling in the same direction, trying to do great things for the Army,” Whalin said.

APG NCO invited to Pro-Soccer Combine

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

An Aberdeen Proving Ground noncommissioned officer soon may be faced with the pleasant prospect of having to change from being a professional soldier to being a professional athlete.

Like any other soldier in his boots, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Whipple says he probably would not have a problem with that.

Whipple, an operations NCO with Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion, recently received an official invitation to a professional soccer combine to be held in Cocoa, Fla., Jan. 6 and 7.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Whipple, operations NCO with Company E, 16th Ordnance Battalion, was recently invited to a professional Soccer Combine sponsored by InfoSport.

The combine is sponsored by InfoSport, a marketing and publishing firm that distributes industry directories for major sports and conducts professional scouting combines for the National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, and Major League Soccer.

Whipple said the event is the equivalent in importance to the one held every spring in Indianapolis for NFL scouts.

“I don’t know how I got an invitation,” Whipple said. “I assumed a former coach submitted my name. When I called to confirm it, the president of the

company told me ‘You must have been doing something right.’”

Anywhere from 300-500 players from across the country will attend the invitation-only event. General managers, coaches and scouts from all MLS, A-League, D-3 Pro League and NPSL teams, and international coaches and agents also have been invited to attend for the high profile player evaluation period, according to the welcome letter signed by Julie D. Lanzillo, president of InfoSport. Teams that do not attend will receive a report on all participants that also will be post-

See SOCCER page 13

APG employee sings at celebrity wedding

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

For one brief, shining moment last month, a member of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community experienced the splendor and grandeur of a fairy tale-like atmosphere.

Ron Roberts, a computer specialist in APG’s Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, is a member of the Welsh choir Cor Cymraeg Rehoboth.

On Nov. 18, the choir performed in New York at the wedding of Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

The wedding took place in Manhattan’s Plaza Hotel. Roberts said it was easily the most elaborate affair he ever attended.

“Obviously no expense was spared,” Roberts recalled. “There must have been 10,000 flowers in the place. It was breathtakingly beautiful.”

Zeta-Jones, who is Welsh, selected the choir after listening to one of its CDs. Reportedly, she wanted a Welsh choir to perform as a surprise for her relatives and friends, more than 30 of whom were flown in from Great Britain.

“She arranged all the music herself,” Roberts said of Zeta-Jones. “We were told which verses to sing in English, which to sing in Welsh and what tempo to use.

She wanted the songs sung the way she remembered them as a child growing up in Wales.”

The choir provided the music for the entire ceremony, performing several songs from a balcony above the audience. The first song, “Watching the White Wheat” announced the bride’s presence.

“We sang another song in the middle of the service, and a number of traditional songs during the recessional,” Roberts said.

A tremendous ovation from the guests, after the groom kissed the bride, delayed the choir’s delivery of a selection Zeta-Jones had chosen for that moment.

“They clapped so long we had to wait until they were finished



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Ron Roberts, a computer specialist with the Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, recently performed with the Welsh choir Cor Cymraeg Rehoboth at the November wedding of Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones in New York City - an experience he says he will never forget. Roberts is standing in front of CPOCMA headquarters at APG.

before we could begin,” said Roberts.

He said he always will remember the few hours he got to spend among the rich and famous with fondness, especially the warmth shown them by their two hosts.

“When we got there, the two of them came over and told us how happy they were to have us there. It was warm, it was genuine and it put us at ease,” Roberts said.

The parade of famous faces caught them a little off guard, however, and before the day was

over, he said, “frankly, we were star struck.”

Some of the celebrities on hand included motion picture director Oliver Stone, actors Jack Nicholson, Meg Ryan, Goldie Hawn, Danny DeVito, Anthony Hopkins, Karl Malden and Christopher Reeve, and Welsh rock singer, Bonnie Tyler.

Roberts said one memorable moment was when he saw Goldie Hawn run down a hallway to hug Quincy Jones.

“They were right in front of

me,” he said, adding that as the two spun around, “I stood there, trying to convince myself I was really seeing Goldie Hawn and Quincy Jones.”

Although the choir members knew about the singing engagement well in advance, they were forbidden to speak about it.

Family members were not permitted to accompany the choir members because of security, which Roberts described as “extremely tight.”

“Nevertheless, we were all happy to be there and honored to have been a part of it all,” Roberts said.

For 12 years Roberts has been a member of Cor Cymraeg Rehoboth. Translating the name, he explained that Cor, means choir, Cymraeg means Welsh and Rehoboth is a Hebrew word from the Bible meaning ‘a safe place.’

A resident of Cardiff, Md., a town rich in Welsh history which shares the name of Wales’ capital city, Roberts said it is not necessary for a person to be of Welsh decent to perform with the choir.

“All you need is a love of singing. Many people start out thinking they’ll never learn the language but they do,” he said adding that the choir also performs English, Latin and German songs, classical, folk, spiritual and Broadway music.

Cor Cymraeg Rehoboth has performed in such diverse venues as the Smithsonian Institute, Baltimore’s Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Philadelphia’s St. Peter’s, Longwood Gardens and the Welsh National Cymanfoedd in Wilkes Barre and Harrisburg, Pa.

In Europe, they have performed in Peterborough Cathedral in England, the American Cathedral and Notre Dame in Paris and at the National Eisteddfod in Wales.

Members of the choir are drawn from Newark, Del., Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and the areas of Maryland and Delaware contiguous to Delta, Pa.

For information about becom-

HEAT Center offers JHU graduate-level engineering courses

By Sheila Little
APG News

Educational possibilities continue to grow for those living or working in and around Aberdeen Proving Ground, as Johns Hopkins University and Harford Community signed a memorandum of agreement at the Higher Education and Applied Technology (HEAT) Center, Nov. 29.

This new partnership comes as a result of the continuing efforts of the APG Science and Technology Board, a partnership of APG’s science and engineering organizations with Harford County, Harford and Cecil community colleges, and the Northeastern Maryland Technology Council to promote the overall technological growth of APG and the surrounding civilian community.

Brian Simmons, chairman of the APG Science and Technology Board and deputy to the commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command and James Harkins, Harford County Executive, joined leaders and representatives from the Army and community to witness and celebrate the signing of the memorandum of agreement by Ilene Busch-Vishniac, dean of the JHU Whiting School of Engineering and Dr. Claudia Chiesi, president of Harford Community College.

Simmons described the success in bringing Johns Hopkins graduate classes to Harford County as “a major milestone,” and predicted a long-lasting impact for the community. He said that the ever-increasing demand for advanced technology, and the Army’s commitment to provide the best, requires a constant increase in skill development.

“These classes will increase the level of technical skills in our work force,” Simmons said, adding that Johns Hopkins is now



Photo by DANA FRITTS

Ilene Busch-Vishniac, dean of the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering, gives a ‘thumbs up’ from a Bradley Fighting Vehicle at the Aberdeen Test Center during her tour of APG Nov. 29. After touring ATC and the Army Research Laboratory’s Weapons and Materials Research facility, she and Dr. Claudia Chiesi, president of Harford Community College, signed a memorandum of agreement bringing graduate-level engineering classes to the Higher Education and Applied Technology (HEAT) Center starting Jan. 22.

a vital member and partner in the APG and Harford County community.

Graduate-level engineering classes will begin at the HEAT Center Jan. 22. Open to those interested in expanding their education and promotion potential, initial courses in environmental engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering and material science and engineering will be offered at the HEAT Center, with a look to expanding to include fine arts, humanities, and public health courses and the location of classes as popularity demands. Eligible students are those with a bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited college or university, or in the last semester of undergraduate study.

“As technology evolves and as our military moves to become a more efficient and rapidly deployable workforce, the scientists and engineers at Aberdeen Proving Ground have an increasingly critical and difficult role to play. There is more to research, develop, test and evaluate,” Simmons said. “To accomplish this requires a well-trained work force.”

Harkins said the celebration of the partnership between the JHU Whiting School of Engineering and the local community marks the completion of a long-standing vision, combining the academic community with the technically proficient work force, resulting in a great opportunity for those in the area, and offering an additional increase in the county’s overall quality of life.

Chiesi described the HEAT Center as one of the “crown jewels” of Harford County, and said the cooperation that makes the partnership work is a recognized success in Maryland, and other communities in the state are looking to Harford County as the model as they build similar partnerships.

“We are really excited,” Busch-Vishniac said. “Engineering is changing so quickly, and we are pleased to be providing an opportunity for workers to update their skills.”

As students hear about the educational opportunities at the HEAT Center, additional classes and classrooms will be added, she said.

JHU is pleased to be part of a partnership that offers great

Aberdeen Youth Center holiday happenings

All programs listed below are located at the Aberdeen Youth Center, building 2522. For more information call Donna Woodards at 410-278-4995.

COOKING PROJECTS:
Dec. 19, 6 to 8 p.m. - Gingerbread houses (sign up required before the Dec. 15)

CRAFT PROJECTS:
Dec. 20, 6 to 8 p.m. - Stained glass ornaments
Dec. 21, 6 to 8 p.m.- Candy cane reindeer
Dec. 22, 6 to 8 p.m.- Christmas center piece

T E E N S U P R E M E EVENTS:
Dec. 12 to 13, 6 to 8 p.m. - Making gift baskets for the elderly
Dec. 15, Delivering gift baskets to nearby nursing home
Dec. 15, 8 to 11 p.m. - Holiday teen dance

Pro soccer dream may be within reach for OC&S soldier

SOCCKER, from page 3

ed on the InfoSport website.

In his 19th year of active-duty service, Whipple, at age 37, is mindful of the fact that he may be competing against “guys right out of college.”

Having played since he was a child, and a stickler for maintaining a high physical standard, Whipple is hoping his vast experience will ensure him a good showing.

“It will be very competitive,” Whipple said. “I’ve played well with and against great players, but there’s still no telling what the outcome will be.”

A former administrative NCO with the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Whipple has played the game regularly on APG and in the civilian community since 1997. Before that, he played in Germany for 10 years.

At the post intramural level, he played for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion and coached Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion to the post championship. As a member of the Maryland State Soccer Association, Whipple plays on civilian leagues in Columbia and Fallston along with other soldiers from APG.

“It’s fun and it’s great experience,” Whipple said. “We’ve played some of the best teams in the region.” An avid soccer fan and a teammate of Whipple’s for more than three years, 1st Sgt. Deveral Webley, from Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, described him as a “tough, defensive player who reads the game well.”

“We’ve been playing together a long time,” Webley said, adding that they won the post championship together in 1998. “Whipple is very dedicated to the sport and should do well.”

Whipple’s advice for soccer enthusiasts headed overseas is to get involved with local teams. “Find out where the local teams are and play as often as you can,” Whipple said. “You can’t help but benefit from the experience and the exposure, and you never know who’s watching.”

For current and aspiring professional baseball, basketball and soccer players, Pro soccer combines are the premier events of their kind. Players are tested, measured and thoroughly evaluated by a professional staff to provide a thorough, accurate, athletic and personal profile of players to professional teams.

New Commercial Activities Study to follow

GARRISON from front page

five years and a balancing of the skills we can apply to the tasks required. We also want to implement Better Business Practices across the board.

Spidel said the garrison will request VSIP/VERA authority from U.S. Army Materiel Command (for VSIP) and the Department of the Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense (for VERA) at the beginning of the new calendar year. Assuming AMC and DA fund all associated transition costs, we will proceed with VSIP as planned, as APG has very limited budget resources.

“We think the U.S. Army Materiel Command can get back to us with an approval for VSIP in a week’s time,” Spidel said. “The VSIP window would be open for about two weeks and then we’ll reassess our needs. We expect Office of the Secretary of Defense to respond to the VERA request by mid-February, at which point we’ll have a fourteen-day window. We would not issue 120-day RIF notices until mid-June and they wouldn’t be effective until late October.”

Spidel emphasized the possibility of slippage in the timelines he presented.

“We believe that the timeline we’ve presented can be achieved, but I think we’re all aware that any and all of these dates could slip a lot,” he said.

He also pointed out that since VERA and/or VSIP recipients must save an involuntary separation, the open window for the incentives will be targeted to specific series and possibly specific grades.

Once the reorganization is completed the garrison will be in a position to pursue the CA study.

“It is completely unrealistic for anyone to believe we could do a reshape and a CA study at the same time,” Spidel said. “We have to take care of first things first.”

The guidelines for a new CA solicitation include removing child and youth services from the study, addressing requirements made by the General Accounting Office.

“So much has changed since we began the study, we’re obligated to take a whole new look at the requirements,” Spidel said. “We’ve had a lot of lessons learned, a great deal of guidance from both the Army and GAO,

and other installations have had studies from which we can benefit. Once we’ve revised our management study and reconfigured our Directorate of Installation Operation, we’ll go out and obtain, evaluate new contractor proposals and conduct a new cost comparison. In view of how our previous submission fared and how long it took us to get this far, I think you all know that many external factors influence the milestone schedule. However, we do know that it would take a minimum of thirty months to go from planning to implementation of a revised CA.”

Spidel reiterated his feelings about the garrison work force.

“I can’t say enough good things about the job you’ve done through all of this,” he told the groups. “Your efforts have been overwhelming. Throughout this entire enterprise I have seen many of you time and again put this installation ahead of your own well-being. Maj. Gen. Doesburg [installation commander] and I have the utmost admiration and respect for you and the job you’ve done.

Company C 16th grabs Intramural Basketball preseason crown



By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion served notice, last week, that it just may be the team to beat during the upcoming Intramural Basketball season. Facing Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, in the Nov. 5 pre-season final, Company C, 16th came from behind to force a dramatic tie as time ran out, then ran away with the game in overtime to post a 72-64 win.

A large crowd of 16th Ordnance Battalion fans, already on hand for the Commander’s Cup awards that were given out before the game, remained to watch the contest.

Both teams advanced through the qualification rounds that began Nov. 27, leaving numerous would-be winners in their wake.

The hero of the game for Company C, 16th was William Daniel, a newcomer to APG with a serious game to his credit. It was Daniel’s desperation three-pointer from mid-court that tied the game up 59-all as time expired in regulation to force the overtime. Before the game, Company C, 16th coach Jay Wallace, said he expected youth to work to his young team’s advantage. “We’ve got a lot of young guys but they’re enthusiastic,” Wallace said. “They can really wear teams down.”

The game did progress rapidly with Company C, 16th getting key support from Daniel, Reggie Laws, Kareith Williams and Jamaal Wilkins. Up 28-25 at halftime, Company C, 16th was full of confidence until Company C, 143rd went on an offensive tear that saw them open up an 8-point lead behind the shooting prowess of Darnell Rosette.

Clawing its way back, Company C, 16th gradually closed the gap until with 6-seconds to go, and down 59-56, Daniel caught an inbound pass from Tony Richardson at mid-court, turned, dribbled, shot and sank the three at the buzzer. The place erupted.

In overtime, 16th never relinquished its lead, stretching it out to a 72-64 win.

“We gave them too many shots on the inside,” Company C, 143rd coach Michael Bennett said after the game. He said the team wasn’t put off by Daniel’s last-second heroics.

“I told them to treat it like it’s a new game,” Bennett said about the forced overtime. “They had a big momentum swing we just couldn’t overcome.”

“I knew if I got a good enough pass I could do it and Richardson gave me a good one,” Daniel said.

Wallace said the team showed a lot of heart in beating its favored opponent.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion’s basketball players and coach hold the championship trophy after winning the pre-season Intramural Basketball Tournament, Dec. 5 at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center. The team defeated Company C, 143rd Ordnance Company, 72-64 in overtime. From left front row, Tony Richardson, Reggie Laws, coach Jay Wallace, James Sherrill and Dante Flemister. Second row, Darrin Strong, Robert McLendon, Kareith Williams and William Daniel. Back row, Laurente Salley, Oscar Colon, Jamaal Wilkins and Antwuan Vaughn.

Basketball Update

The following is the results for the Intramural Basketball Pre-season Tournament held Nov. 27 - Dec. 6.

Nov. 27	52
Natl. Guard, 52; KUSAHC, 35	Company B 143rd, 56; Natl. Guard, 48
HHC 61st, 39; Company A, 143rd, 20	HHC 61st, 55; 520th TAML, 25
NCOA, 53; Company B, 143rd, 51	Nov. 30
USMC, 46; 520th TAML, 44	Company C 143rd, 48; HHC 143rd, 46
Nov. 28	Company B 16th, 46; NCOA, 42
Company B, 16th, 60; HHC 16th, 51	Company C 16th, 54; Company E 16th, 44
HHC 143rd, 40; Nat. Guard, 30	Company B 143rd, 46; HHC 61st, 43
Company C, 143rd, 58; HHC 61st, 56	Dec. 1
NCOA, 50; Company E, 16th, 36	Company C 16th, 37; HHC 143rd, 32
USMC, 58; Company B, 16th, 51	NCOA, 51; Company B 143rd, 41
Company C 16th, 54; Company A, 143rd, 30	Dec. 4
520th TAML, 46; HHC 16th, 41	Company C 143rd, 50; Company B 16th, 47
Nov. 29	Company C 16th, 51; NCOA, 41
Company E 16th, 66; KUSAHC, 39	Dec. 5
Company C 16th, 57; USMC, 41	Company C 16th, 72; Company C 143rd, 64 (OT)

CPSC announces voluntary recalls - slippers, bike helmets, plush rabbit toys, high chairs

WASHINGTON (Dec. 5, 2000)
- In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, several companies are announcing voluntary recalls of their product.

Fleece slippers

L.L. Bean Inc., of Freeport, Maine, is voluntarily recalling about 2,000 pairs of fleece slippers. The drawcord around the ankle of these slippers can break and release the toggle used to tighten the drawcord. The toggle presents a choking hazard to young children.

L.L. Bean has received one report of a 12 month-old baby pulling the toggle off of his slipper. No injuries were reported.

The Snuggle-Up slippers are made of red, blue or aqua fleece fabric, and have a suede sole. The drawcord around the ankle has a barrel toggle to tighten the slipper to adjust the fit. An “LL Bean” fabric label is sewn below the drawcord on the rear of the slipper. “L.L. Bean(r)” and “MADE IN CHINA” are written on the sole of the slippers. They were sold in sizes XXS (3.5 to 5.5) and XS (6 to 8).The L.L. Kids Store in Freeport, Maine, the L.L. Bean Store in McLean,Va. and the L.L. Bean catalogs and web site sold the slippers nationwide from August 2000 through October 2000 for about \$18. Consumers should take these slippers away from young children immediately, and return them to L.L. Bean for an exchange or refund. For more information, call Nychelle Flemming at CPSC 301-504-0580, or L.L. Bean at 800-555-9717 anytime.

To see a picture of the recalled product or to establish a link see web site www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01035.html

Bicycle Helmets

Variflex Inc., of Moorpark, Calif.; NHS Inc., of Santa Cruz, Calif.; and First Team Sports Inc., of Anoka, Minn.; are voluntarily recalling about 243,000 bicycle helmets. These helmets fail impact testing required under CPSC’s Safety Standard for Bicycle Helmets, violating the Consumer Product Safety Act. Riders wearing these helmets are not adequately protected from falls, and could suffer severe head injuries or death. The recalls are the result of a CPSC investigation, test results provided by the Good Housekeeping Institute and a helmet company’s report to CPSC. CPSC and these firms are not aware of any injuries or incidents involving these helmets. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

“X-Games Aggressive” Bicycle Helmets

Variflex Inc. is recalling about 240,000 “X-Games Aggressive” bicycle helmets, which are either black, white or chrome. They have a red “X-Games” insignia on the front and “X-Games” is written on the back. A large label inside these helmets reads “SGS CPSC CY50159.” and “Variflex Inc.” “Static” and “Made in Taiwan” are written on the packaging. Sporting goods and discount department stores nationwide sold these helmets from October 1999 through September 2000 for about \$20. Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately, and

return them to the store where purchased for a refund or replacement helmet.

For more information, call Variflex at 800-248-5327 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

NHS TSG Helmets

NHS Inc. is recalling about 1,100 “TSG Metallic Gold,” 1,000 “TSG Gloss Black” and 500 “TSG Foundation Blue” helmets. The Metallic Gold and Gloss Black helmets have “TSG” written on the front and rear of the helmet. The Foundation Blue helmets have the word “Foundation” across the front and a star and moon on the side of the helmet. They have serial numbers beginning SN: 00170 or SN: 00171, and a date code of January, February and April 2000 written on the white label inside the helmets. Sporting goods stores nationwide sold these helmets from February 2000 through October 2000 for between \$35 to \$45. Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately and return them to NHS Inc., not to the store where purchased, for a refund. For more information and instructions on how to return the helmet, call NHS at 877-743-7820 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

First Team Sports “Guardian Junior Helmets”

First Team Sports Inc. is recalling about 1,000 “Guardian Junior Helmets.” They are slate blue, and have “Guardian” written on the front and rear of the helmets. They have model numbers 007471, 007958, 009437 or 009455, and date code “2000/04” written on a label inside the helmets. Sporting goods stores in the eastern and north eastern U.S. sold these helmets from February 2000 through October 2000 for about \$25. Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately, and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call First Team Sports at 800-528-5872 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

To see a picture of the recalled products or to view CPSC web site, see address: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pre-rel/prhtml01/01032.html>. Also, CPSC representative Kim Dulic can be reached at 301-504-0580, ext. 1183.

Recall to repair high chairs

Cosco Inc., of Columbus, Ind., is voluntarily recalling about one

million Options 5 High Chairs. The high chairs are adjustable and have both recline and upright positions. In the recline position, the seats can separate from the frame and fall to the ground. In the upright position, the seats can slip from their set height position to the lowest position or can fall to the ground. Additionally, some seats were sold with a metal restraint anchor that can slip through the back of the seat allowing the child to fall to the ground. Infants and toddlers can suffer head, face and bodily injuries.

Cosco and CPSC have received 168 reports of incidents involving the high chairs’ seats or restraints, including 57 injury reports, primarily to the head and face. Two children reportedly suffered slight concussions; 12 children were monitored for head injuries; and others suffered swollen eyes, bloody noses and lips, bumps and bruises.

The Cosco Options 5 High Chairs being recalled have five options for use: high chair, infant feeding, youth chair, play chair and booster seat. The chair’s seat can be used in a reclined infant position or adjusted into seven upright height positions for toddlers. It has four tray positions, a vinyl seat pad and a removable footrest. “Cosco” is on the chair’s leg support bar, tray and on a sticker on the bottom of the seat. The restraint system consists of a waist/crotch belt and a plastic T-bar attached to the tray. The recalled chairs can be identified by model number 03-286 and manufacture date, which are located on the bottom of the seat. The Options 5 High Chairs subject to this recall were manufactured from December 1, 1997 through August 11, 2000. Mass merchandise, juvenile products and major discount department stores nationwide sold the high chairs for about \$40 to \$50.

Cosco is offering consumers two types of repair kits, depending on the date their high chair was manufactured. To prevent seat separation, all kits will contain a redesigned handle that stays out and fits over the frame each time the seat is used in the recline position. In many incidents in the recline position, the handle was not over the frame of the high chair.

Consumers should stop using these high chairs immediately, and order a free repair kit from Cosco by calling (800) 221-6736

between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Consumers also may visit the company’s web site at <http://www.coscoinc.com/services/servfram.html> to order a free repair kit and to obtain instructions for proper assembly and use. When contacting Cosco, consumers should have the chair in front of them to provide the model number and four-digit manufacture date, which are located on the bottom of the seat. The manufacture date will determine which repair kit is needed.

To see a picture of the recalled product or to establish a link to CPSC’s web site, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pre-rel/prhtml01/01041.html>. CPSC contact is Kim Dulic or Jane Francis 301-504-0580.

Plush Rabbit Toys

Small Small World, of Englewood, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 60,000 plush rabbit toys sold under The Boyds Collection label. The eyes on these toys could detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. Small Small World has not received any reports of injuries associated with these toys. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The recall involves two styles of plush rabbit toys: Natalie Nibblenose and Nickie Nibblenose. They are both about 6 inches tall with movable joints, and have bows around their necks. Sewn-on tags on these toys read, “THE BOYDS COLLECTION” and “MADE IN CHINA.” Natalie Nibblenose is a white chenille hare. A cardboard tag attached to her with string reads, “NATALIE NIBBLENOSE” and “STYLE # 573300-01.” Nickie Nibblenose is a French vanilla and white hare. A cardboard tag attached to him with string reads, “NICKIE NIBBLENOSE” and STYLE #573303-03.”

Specialty stores sold these toys nationwide from December 1999 through September 2000 for about \$6.

For more information, call Small Small World at 800-485-7211 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

To see a picture of the recalled product or to view CPSC’s web site visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pre-rel/prhtml01/01039.html>.

The CPSC representative is Nychelle Fleming at 301-504-0580, ext. 1192.

Community Notes

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 15
AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Harford Community College’s Division of Fine and Applied Arts will present “An Evening of Jazz,” 8 p.m., in HCC’s Chesapeake Theater. Second Shift, Blue Connotations, and HCC’s vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles will perform. Tickets cost \$5 for adults, and \$1 for students 17 and under. Proceeds will benefit HCC’s Music Scholarship Fund. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-836-4211 or 410-879-8920. TTY 410-836-4199.

PRESENTATION OF “1001 CHRISTIAN WOMEN”

The Women’s Day Committee of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church 617 Green Street in Havre de Grace presents “100 Christian Women” at 7 p.m. The guest speaker is Elder Cheryl Wallace of New Destiny Evangelistic Ministries in Edgewood.

COUNTRY WESTERN CHRISTMAS DANCE IN ABERDEEN

The Harford County Country Western Dance Association is holding their Christmas Dance from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the American Legion on Parke Street in Aberdeen. There will be no lessons. Everyone is welcome. Admission of \$10 includes draft beer, soda, chips, and pretzels.

16TH ORDNANCE BATTALION FEMALE RETREAT

A Spiritual Retreat for Female Soldiers will be held at the Military Christian Center in Aberdeen, Dec. 15 to 17. Maj. Donna Webley, executive officer of the 16th Ordnance Battalion, Nancy Brugh, president of the Protestant Women of the Chapel and PWOC member, Dina Hughes, will lead the retreat. “Twenty-four females from the Advanced Individual Training companies will discuss “Unique Womanhood,” the program’s theme,” said Webley. There will be guest speakers, spiritual activities, PWOC mentoring and a Sunday morning worship service. Three daily meals will be provided. “The Military Christian Center also is sponsoring a holiday shopping trip to the mall and PWOC is throwing a Christmas party,” Webley added. For more information, contact Maj. Donna Webley at 410-278-3392.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church School, 617 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will present its Annual Christmas program at 6 p.m. This year’s program is a ‘Musical Extravaganza,’ featuring local choirs and musicians. Admission is free. A reception is planned immediately following the program. For more information call Lisa Waldon at 410-278-4353/5480.

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17
GOOD NEWS

The Edgewood Baptist Church will present “That’s The Good News,” a Christmas musical, 7 p.m. at the Edgewood Baptist Church, located at 422 Edgewood Road, Edgewood. Everyone is invited to

attend. Admission to the concert is free; nursery services will be provided. For more information, call the church office at 410-676-5838.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT PERRY POINT

Women’s Army Corps Veterans Association Maryland Free State Chapter 70 Will hold a Christmas Party at Perry Point VA Medical Center at 3 p.m. in the Day Room on the Nursing Home Care Unit, Ward 9. Members will meet at 2 p.m. in the parking lot next to the Perry Point Chapel. For more information, contact Wanda Story at 410-272-5040.

FREETOUR OF HAVRE DE GRACE CHURCHES AND NATIVITY SCENE CONTEST

Susquehanna Ministerium is sponsoring a free self-guided Christmas tour of local churches from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit the Havre de Grace United Methodist Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church of Havre de Grace, St. Matthew’s A.U.M.P. Church, First Baptist Church, Church of St. Patrick, First Christian Church and St. John’s Baptist Church for music, live nativities and a Christmas play.

The ministerium also invites everyone to visit their nativity scene in front of the community Christmas tree in Rochambeau Plaza. They are sponsoring an outdoor nativity scene contest. Winners will be selected between Dec. 25 and Jan. 7 from each of three categories, homes, churches and businesses.

FRIDAY
JANUARY 5

WOMEN’S ARMY CORPS VETERANS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Maryland Free State Chapter 70 will hold a meeting at 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center in Aberdeen. All women of the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, Women’s Army Corps, retired Army, honorably discharged, active duty, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and the Army Nurses Corps are welcome to attend and join.

January 10
COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER BREAKFAST

APG’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Prayer Breakfast, will be from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Top of the Bay. Guest speaker will be the Honorable Judge Angela M. Eaves, District Court of Maryland, District 9, Harford County. Tickets go on sale Dec. 11 and cost \$7 per person.

To purchase tickets for the breakfast, contact the following unit representatives: Master Sgt. James Davis, OC&S, 410-278-2529; Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Yelder, 61st Ordnance Brigade, 410-278-5598; Staff Sgt. Michael Jackson, KUSAHC, 410-278-1749; Sgt. 1st Class Herbert Johnson, DTC, 410-278-1053; Sgt. 1st Class Shelton Torbert, SBCCOM, 410-278-1534; Sgt. 1st Class Mitchelen Bigman, NCOA, 410-278-7381 or David Burbey, APG Garrison, 410-278-1145.

Upcoming classes at EA Crafts

Framing

A beginning matting and framing class will be held on Dec. 21 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Students must bring an 8’ x 10” picture to class to frame and must preregister in advance as class size is limited. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

Porcelain Dolls

A beginning porcelain doll class making a Sugar Britches doll will be held on Fridays in January on the 5th, 12th and 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Class size is limited. Preregistration is required. Cost is \$30 plus supplies.

Custom Framing

A professional picture framer is on staff to do your framing. Photo’s, limited edition prints, posters, paintings or just about anything can be framed. A wide selection of mats and frames is available to choose from.

Edgewood Arts & Crafts is open Thursdays from 1 to 9 p.m., Friday & Saturday from 9 to 5 p.m., and is available to all active duty military, civilians working on post and their dependents. It is located in building E-4440 next to the MP station. For more information call 410-436-2153.

Chapel plans holiday events

The following is the schedule of holiday events taking place at the chapels in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas:

Aberdeen Area:

Catholic:

Dec. 24 Christmas carols (choir)	11:30 p.m.	Main Chapel
Dec. 24 Midnight mass	12 a.m.	Main Chapel
Dec. 25 Christmas Day mass	9 a.m.	Main Chapel
Dec. 31 Mary, Mother of God mass	5 p.m.	Main Chapel

Protestant:

Dec. 17 Christmas Cantata	7 p.m.	Main Chapel
Dec. 24 Candlelight service	6 p.m.	Main Chapel
Dec. 31 Watchnight service	9 p.m.	Main Chapel

Edgewood Area

Catholic:

Dec. 16 Stable mass	7 p.m.	Post Stables
Dec. 16 Reception	8 p.m.	Activity Room
Dec. 24 Family mass/children’s Pageant	5 p.m.	Main Chapel
Dec. 25 Christmas Day mass	11 a.m.	Main Chapel

Protestant: No schedule at this time.

LEAVE DONATION

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program are:

Ameneh M. Arasten (maternity)	William Klein (knee-surgery)
Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement)	Yvonne Lissimore (heart attack)
Marian Bellis (Fracture of left tibia)	Nicholas J. Lombardo, Jr. (heart attack)
Barbara Boyd (mother is ill)	Stacy Miller (maternity)
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant)	Mary V. Overstreet (twisted and sprained wrists and legs)
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema)	Debi L. Petosky (back surgery)
Tammy Budkey	Lylis Payne
Angela D. Cheek	Cecil Pennington (surgery)
Nancy Coleman-Jones (surgery)	Barbara Carol Remines (surgery)
Dawn Crouse (surgery)	Michael Reynolds
Bonnie K. Day (surgery)	Janice M. Rice (assist ill mother)
Tricia Lin Dietz	Denise Robinson (maternity)
Fred Dill	Ricky Ross (heart attack)
Surinder K. Dillon (son has cancer)	Tami C. Rowland (Maternity)
Joseph R. Dugan	Allan Scarborough (back surgery)
Messina Enderlein	Sherry Schaffer
Wayne Erb (wife is ill)	Lena Shelton
Willa Freisheim	Motoko Stahl
Penelope K. Galoff (maternity)	Norman L. Greear
Michael L. Hitchcock (surgery)	Frances L. Thomas
Stephen Howard (bone marrow transplant)	Joseph Walker (wife has cancer)
Wayne A. Jaynes	Rosalind Walters Kenion (maternity)
Evelyn K., Johnson (surgery)	Cecelia Walton (respiration problems)
Larry Jonas	Willie Williams
Carole Jones	Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)
Marlin Julian (heart surgery)	
Jennifer Keetley (maternity)	
Beverly King (caring for husband)	

For information about donating annual leave, call Dave Mial; 410-278-1524; or fax 410-278-7877.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Library Book Corner

The Garrison Library has books for holiday cooking and decorating ideas. Come by either the Aberdeen Area Library or the Edgewood Area Branch Library and check them out.

Better Homes and Gardens Christmas at Home

Camille Glenn’s Old-Fashioned Christmas Cookbook

Canada Dry Alcohol-Free Party Drinks by Shelley Kilander Logan

Crafts for Hanukkah by Kathy Ross

Decorating your Home for Christmas by Home Decorating Institute

The Frugal Gourmet Celebrates Christmas by Jeff Smith

A Kwanzaa Celebration by Angela Shelf Medearis

A Kwanzaa Keepsake by Jessica B. Harris

Sewing for the Holidays from a Singer Sewing Reference Library series

White Christmas: Decorating and Entertaining for the Holiday Season by Tricia Foley

The Aberdeen Area post library will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan 1. On Dec. 26 and 27 the library will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Edgewood Area branch library will be open Dec. 20 and 21 from 11:30 to 6:30 p.m., but closed Dec. 22 to Jan. 1.

MOVIES

BOOK OF SHADOWS, BLAIR WITCH 2 (FREE ADMISSION)

Friday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m.

Starring: Jeffrey Donovan, Erica Leerhsen

After spending a disorienting night at one of the most sinister sites in Blair Witch lore, five campers awake to a scene of destruction and no memory of having gone to sleep. In an attempt to piece together what happened, they return to an abandoned warehouse where legend begins to bleed into reality. (Rated R)



Gift Wrapping Schedule

DECEMBER:	
Friday 15 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Edgewood Elementary PTA Marcy Perez, 410-676-6994	Thursday 21 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. 203rd Family Support Group Angela Conlon, 410-436-2306
Saturday 16 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel Nancy Brew, 410-272-1098	Friday 22 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools Command & Staff Soldier Readiness Donna Deitz, 410-273-1487
Sunday 17 - 10 p.m. to 6 p.m. Air Force Wives Carla Davis, 410-278-2848	Saturday 23 - 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. 16th Ordnance Battalion Family Support Group Command Sgt. Maj. Posadas, 410-278-8595
Monday 18 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Warrant Officers Association Warrant Officer Hill, 410-278-3170	Sunday 24 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 16th Ordnance Battalion Soldier Support Group Command Sgt. Maj. Posadas, 410-278-8595
Tuesday 19 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Roye Williams PTA Donna Dease, 410-273-1487	
Wednesday 20 - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. 520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory Soldier Support Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Perez,	

Freestate cadets win regional ChalleNGe Invitational competition

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Maryland Freestate ChalleNGe Academy continues to distinguish itself as Maryland’s premier facility for at-risk youth. The academy, under the auspices of the Maryland Army National Guard, will hold its 15th graduation Dec. 16 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater when 95 cadets will receive Certificates of Completion.

Actor John Amos, from the hit television dramas “The West Wing” and “The District” will be the guest speaker.

Earlier this month, the academy’s finest cadets ventured to Fort Stewart, Ga., to participate in the 9th Challenge Invitational competition. Competing in seven categories against four other states, the cadets came away with first place overall.

Under the guidance of National Guard Staff Sgt. Carl Wilkinson, the drill team beat out all other competitors in the Standard and Exhibition Drill categories. The Maryland team also finished first in Chess and Jeopardy, second in two Basketball events and third in Fitness.

Second place went to Georgia with 13 points. Virginia finished third with eight points, Kentucky was in fourth place with five points and South Carolina had two points after competing in only one event.

Wilkinson said the Drill competition, the main event of the

invitational, took hard work and weeks of practice to prepare for.

“They had two weeks of intense training starting in mid-November, in addition to the training they received since their induction in August,” Wilkinson said.

While he trained the team in standard drill maneuvers in accordance with U.S. Army Field Manual 22-5, Wilkinson said two volunteers, Ebony Hudley and Rodney Neal, former students from the Lake Clifton High School Drill Team in Baltimore, conducted exhibition drill training.

“They met or exceeded every standard we set for them,” Wilkinson said of the cadets. “They were outstanding.

He added that the toughest part of the competition was the Knock-Out Drill, in which all competitors form a mass formation, then respond to the commands of a drill instructor.

“The last group standing wins,” Wilkinson said.

The Knock Out Drill works by a process of elimination to see who will anticipate the drill instructor’s commands, explained Sgt. 1st Class Linwood White, the academy’s commandant.

He added that the invitational, which started on APG in 1996, has expanded into regional competitions involving programs in 25 states.

“We’re part of the Eastern region which includes Georgia,

Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico,” White said.

“We’re proud of what our cadets accomplished because the program started here and we also were the winners of the first competition,” he added.

The “father of the Challenge Invitational” is National Guard Col. Richard E. (Thunder) Young, deputy director of the academy and commander of the 29th Joint Task Force Augmentation Team of the Maryland Army National Guard.

Young said what makes the program so effective is that each organization uses it to market their program.

“The program also fosters the development of an understanding between cadets of other programs,” Young said.

“When they see other people from other places sharing the same experiences it inspires them to achieve.”

“Even if our cadets hadn’t won, they would have come back strutting proud because they got to participate in something others weren’t able to.”

Nearly half the class traveled by bus to the site accompanied by members of the academy’s cadre. Young said the invitational grew to include other categories since its inception to afford cadets not athletically inclined an opportunity to compete as well.

“Some are better at academics



Photo by STAFF SGT. CARL WILKINSON

The Maryland Freestate ChalleNGe Academy Drill Team prepares for the Exhibition Drill Competition during the 9th Challenge Invitational held Dec. 4 to 8 at Fort Stewart, Ga. The team won first place in Standard and Exhibition Drill competition. Competing at the regional level against four other states in seven other academic and physical events, Maryland’s cadets took first place overall.

than marching and basketball,” Young said adding that regardless of the category, “the stress of being in the spotlight and pitting yourself against other cadets from different programs is a valuable learning experience.”

Young established the ChalleNGe Invitational in 1996. The first invitational, held on APG, consisted of two categories, Drill and Basketball, and was attended by teams from New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Maryland.

Subsequent invitationals grew to include Female Basketball, Coed Triathlon and Coed Track and Field. Eventually, Team Jeopardy and Team Chess Tournaments were added.

Over the past summer, the National Guard Bureau announced the ChalleNGe Invitational would go regional. The Western Region consists of the states of Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma,

Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin.

The Eastern Region is made up of Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

Georgia was the first to host the invitational under the regional concept.

The next regional ChalleNGe Invitational will be held in West Columbia, S.C. in May 2001.

APG officials review holiday safety issues

By Sheila Little
APG News

This is the time of year when nearly everyone is decorating, baking, partying, and children are learning how to operate bicycles, scooters, and skates that they received as gifts. It is also the time of year when many accidents occur. Installation officials want everyone to have a good time, but caution that practicing safety while joining in on the festivities, is the best way to bring in the new millennium.

No roof decorations

Residents in family housing received a letter last week detailing acceptable decorations for on-post quarters. Residents may use lights outside their residence, but are asked not to add ornaments to the roof or climb onto the roof to place lights or other decorations.

Lt. Col. Thomas Kuchar, director of Public Works, issued a statement last week addressing two issues involved with roof decorations.

“We’d like to prevent serious injury to housing occupants and their family members, and we’d like to prevent damage to the roofs of government quarters,” he said.

Kuchar asks occupants to refrain from climbing on the roof for any reason, thus bypassing possible injury to residents and repair inconvenience and expenses if roof damage occurs. He reminded residents that the funds for housing maintenance and repairs are stretched to the limit.

Candle policy

APG fire protection specialist Andre Fournier reminds barracks residents that candles are

not permitted at any time of the year. Fournier said the fire hazard is extremely serious for those in barracks, as a fire in close quarters threatens the lives of all barracks occupants.

He also said that candles are discouraged in family housing. Those residents using candles should never leave lit candles unattended, and should consider using hurricane shades on candle tapers. Fournier said candles should be located away from draperies, Christmas trees, and other holiday decoration, decreasing the chance of fire in the home.

“We have a history of fires on the installation as a result of unattended candles,” Fournier said. “We’ve been fortunate that we only lost property.”

Those adding lights to the outside of their residences, are reminded that using nails to tack the light cords to the home is extremely dangerous and has resulted in fire.

Christmas trees

If purchasing a cut tree, make sure it is as fresh as possible. Fresh trees will not drop many needles when shaken. Cut Christmas trees should be kept in water the entire time they are in the residence. Before decorating, check the wiring of any lights. If strings are frayed, replace with new strings of lights, checking to make sure they display a seal from Factory Mutual or the Underwriter’s Laboratory. The testing labs are listed as FM and UL on electrical appliances. Don’t overload wall sockets, or place extension cords in high traffic locations, or under rugs or carpets. Any such placement may cause someone to trip. All trees should be undecorated and at the curb ready for pick up at the end of the day on Jan. 7 as the only sched-

uled pick up day for APG residents is Monday, Jan. 8.

Lighting hours

Marilyn Spence, engineering technician with the family housing management branch, reminds residents that limiting the amount of outside lighting decoration, taking care of your quarters, and energy conservation can go hand-in hand. In the past, residents caused damage to their quarters when trying to attach lights to the siding, or created fire hazards by nailing into wiring. Keeping the lights on for long hours also drives up the cost of energy. In addition to asking residents to turn off their decorations when not at home, post officials ask for additional cooperation.

“Lights must be turned off by 10 p.m. every evening, with the exception of Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and New Years Eve, Dec. 31. On those evenings, lights may be left on until midnight,” Spence said.

Kitchen safety

A fire in a common area barracks kitchen last week, presumed to be caused by unattended cooking, serves as a reminder to remain in the room when using a range. For more information regarding kitchen safety, see “fire” page

Hazards for children and pets

Residents who have young children, crawling babies, and rambunctious pets are reminded that they must use additional caution over the holidays. Colorful tree decorations left within reach of a curious baby or pet can result in injury. They may break the ornaments, try to eat them, or pull the tree down. Locate the hazardous and breakable ornaments high on the tree out of reach of the curious, or put them away for use in future years.

Actor John Amos to speak at ChalleNGe graduation, Dec. 16

Actor John Amos, best known for his role as James Evans in the 1970s sitcom “Good Times” will be the keynote speaker at the 15th graduation ceremony of the Maryland Army National Guard’s Freestate ChalleNGe Academy on Dec. 16, 9 a.m. at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater.

Amos, who appeared in a multi-episode role in the critically acclaimed drama, “The West Wing” currently appears in the new television drama, “The District.”

He frequently involves himself in National Guard Youth Programs.

Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded to 95 students from around the state and Washington, D.C., during the Saturday morning ceremony.

“This graduation confirms for the cadets the statement I make to them at the start of every cycle,” said National Guard Chaplain (Maj.) Ron Martin-Minnich, director of the academy. “I tell them, ‘You are somebody because God does not make junk.’”

“There is no such thing as a bad child, only bad behavior,” Martin-Minnich said. “We try to change that behavior which negatively impacts their chance for success.”

Freestate Challenge is coordinated through the

Pretty but lethal

Holly and mistletoe berries are considered poisonous to both humans and pets. Poinsettias are known to cause gastric distress if ingested. In addition, other festive plants, such as the Christmas Rose, Christmas cactus and amaryllis are considered poisonous. Keep all plants out of the reach of children and pets, or put off buying the ‘real thing,’ until everyone in the home understands the hazards.

Disposing of gift wrap

After you open the gifts, curb the urge to toss the paper in the fireplace. Some wrapping paper gives off toxic fumes when burned. Throw all wrappings in the trash for refuse pickup.

Drinking and driving

Party hosts are encouraged to avoid holiday problems by serving food before offering alcoholic drinks and having plenty of non-alcoholic choices on hand. Never let an intoxicated guest drive home. Call a cab, arrange a ride with a non-drinking guest, or have them stay the night. As is the case throughout the country, increased patrols will be visible over the holidays to keep intoxicated drivers off the road. Don’t drive drunk.

“The holiday season is traditionally a time of celebration with family and friends,” said Spence. “By following housing guidelines and fire prevention rules, you can help make the holidays safe.”

Fire Extinguisher Guidelines

Fire extinguishers are rated A, B, C, or D, depending on the type of fire fuel that is burning.

Type A extinguishers are for wood, paper, cloth and rubbish-fueled fires.

Type B extinguishers are designed to fight flammable gas and liquids.

Type C extinguishers are for electrical fires.

Type D extinguishers are for combustible metals.

Be sure to use the right type of extinguisher for the type of fire you are confronting. Using the wrong extinguisher can actually make the fire worse. Many extinguishers sold today are an ABC combination, useful for paper-fueled, liquid or electrical fires. Read the directions ahead of time, so that you are familiar with operating the extinguisher. Experts suggest the word, PASS, to help remember proper operating procedures.

P stands for pull, which means pull the pin for operation.

A stands for aim. Aim the nozzle toward the fire.

S is for squeeze. Squeeze the trigger after aiming at the flames.

S stands for sweep. Use a sweeping motion to cover all flames.

Avoid kitchen fires by following a few safety rules

Practice appropriate safety procedures

FIRE, fromfront page

If additional family or friends are visiting, give them a tour of the house, pointing out the exits and reviewing the family evacuation plans.

If your clothing catches fire, do not run, as that will feed the flames. Stop, drop and roll in order to extinguish the flames.

Make sure your family practices safety measures, including having evacuation plans with an outside meeting location known to all family members. Practice evacuation procedures periodically, especially if you have young

children.

Check smoke detectors to make sure they are working and on all levels of the residence, and consider getting an appropriate fire extinguisher for each level of the home.

Don’t overload circuits or leave cooking or lit candles unattended. Turn out all holiday lights when you retire for the evening, and make sure any space heaters are at least three feet away from draperies or other combustibles. Review evacuation plans periodically, and you should have a safe new year.

Photo by SHEILA BALDWIN

Unattended cooking resulted in a barracks kitchen grease fire, Dec. 4. One person was treated for smoke-related injuries. Damages totaled over \$1,800. Residents are reminded to never leave a stove unattended and review guidelines on how to react in the event of a fire.



Community gets in the holiday mood with tree lightings

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

For many people, Aberdeen Proving Ground’s annual tree lighting ceremonies are the sentimental start of the season of caring, sharing and camaraderie.

Those who came out for the ceremonies held Dec. 7 in the Aberdeen Area and Dec. 10 in the Edgewood Area, probably would agree.

Lights, music, song and Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG garrison commander, greeted the families and soldiers who gathered near the Aberdeen Area tree in front of the Post Library Dec. 7.

The 389th Army Band’s Brass Quintet played a medley of holiday tunes as the 16th Ordnance Battalion marched its soldiers into place for the ceremony.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Kenneth Kolenbrander delivered the invocation, offering profound thanks for “bringing us safely together this Advent season.”

Brig. Gen. Dean Ertwine, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command was the guest speaker.

Ertwine encouraged the soldiers to take the opportunity to “reflect on spiritual renewal and recommitment, take time to enjoy family and friends and to consider the role all of us play in providing this gift of peace.”

“Let’s especially remember those deployed and hope these lights serve as reminders of peace and joy,” Ertwine said.

Company A provided the battalion’s youngest soldier, Pvt. Alo Berleme, 17, to assist Ertwine in pulling the ceremonial switch to light the tree.

Berleme, a native of Samoa, said though the weather was not to his liking, he was “honored and proud to assist the general” for the occasion.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

The Aberdeen Area Christmas tree stands lit as Brig. Gen. Dean Ertwine, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, addresses the audience during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 7 in front of the Post Library.



Photos by YVONNE JOHNSON

Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison commander, left, and Chaplain (Maj.) Lee Vermont listened as Ertwine directed the audience’s attention to the 389th Army Band’s Brass Quintet closing the program with a series of holiday songs. Right, Aberdeen Area children surrounded Santa as he passed out candy canes following the Aberdeen Area Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa kidded with soldiers from the 16th Ordnance Battalion before departing the area on his bright red fire truck (sleigh).



USMC takes 2000 Commander's Cup

Marine Corps Detachment outplays competitors in points and participation

By Yvonne Johnson
APG NEWS

The 2000 Commander’s Cup Award Presentation was held Dec. 6 at the APG Athletic Center. For most people in the know, this year’s winner was a foregone conclusion.

The U.S. Marine Corps Detachment took the award hands down after winning five championships out of the 12-sports programs offered and accumulating 208 points.

The runner-up trophy went to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, with 184 points.

Soldiers, Marines and airmen filled the bleachers of the Athletic Center for the presentation, which

began following a smooth rendition of the National Anthem by SSgt Russell King, Jr. from the 389th Army Band (AMC’s Own).

Marni Allison, APG athletic director, opened the program with a brief history of the Commander’s Cup award then announced the award winners.

Presenting the awards were Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG garrison and deputy installation commander and Earlene Allen, intramural sports coordinator.

Championship awards for the winners of the post’s championship tournaments went to: HHC 143rd Ordnance Battalion for Basketball, Volleyball and Bowling, accepted by Capt. Peter J. Macakanja, company commander,

and 1st Sgt. Isauro G. Lopez.

Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion for the 3-On-3 Basketball Tournament, accepted by 1st Sgt. Michael Bennett

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic for Golf, accepted by Lt. Col. Tim Rhodes

HHC, 16th Ordnance Battalion for Flag Football, accepted by 1st Sgt. Kevin Gray

Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion for Soccer, accepted by Capt. Martin A Griffith, 1st Sgt. Robert Bartholemew and Drill Sergeant (Sgt.) Garnett Brown.

The Unit Sportsmanship Award went to Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, accepted by 1st Sgt. Michael Bennett,

The Unit Sports Representative of the Year award went to Staff Sgt. Darnell Rosette, Company C, 143rd Ordnance Battalion.

HHC 16th Ordnance Battalion, like USMC, participated in all of the 12 sports offered under the program. The unit won one championship in Flag Football, finished first in its division in Basketball and Golf, finished second overall in Racquetball and Bowling and third in 3-on-3 Basketball. Accepting the runner-up award was 1st Sgt. Kevin Gray.

USMC won five post championships for Racquetball, Bench Press, Bowling, the Dead Lift and Tennis. It also finished first in its division in Softball, Flag Football and Soccer.

Maj. Dan D. Mielke accepted the 2000 Commander’s Cup trophy for USMC.

Mielke said the unit was not surprised things turned out the way they did.

“We’ve been working toward this ever since we won first runner-up last year,” Mielke said.

“What’s more important than winning is that the fine sports program we have here at APG is good for morale, promotes readiness and physical fitness,” he added.

Gunnery Sgt. Zachary Rhodes, a physical fitness “fixture” in the detachment, said he was tasked with making sure USMC won it all this year.

“We felt like first runner up was the same thing as “first loser,” Rhodes said.

With that thought in mind, Rhodes set up events, organized coaches and players and insured maximum unit participation in USMC’s quest for the cup.

Known for his muscular prowess in the Bench Press and Deadlift competitions, Rhodes is due to leave the command soon, headed to Miramar Air Station in California.

The Commander’s Cup Program was established in 1980 to encourage military units to participate in the Intramural Sports program. The first unit to win the award was APG’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Since then, 18 units have been recognized. The award is presented annually by the Community Recreation Division Intramural Sports Program to the military unit that scores the most points during the sports year, which begins in January, with basketball and concludes in November with football and soccer.

Units are awarded points for participation and placement in 12 team and individual sports categories. Points also are awarded for attendance at sports council meetings, coaches meetings and rules’-clinics held throughout the year.

As the Brass Quintet led another round of carols, a siren signaled the arrival of Santa Claus. To the delight of the children present, jolly old Santa, arriving on a fire truck, kidded with the soldiers and the children, passing out candy canes as he moved gaily through the crowd.

As Santa departed, Spidel thanked everyone for coming, and the quintet played “Joy to the World” as the crowd dispersed.

In the Edgewood Area, the entire 143rd Ordnance Battalion formed a semi-circle around the tree in front of the Post Chapel Dec. 10.

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, offered “Merry Christmas,” “Season’s Greetings,” and “Happy Chanukah” to those who braved the chilly drizzle to see the tree lighting.

Addressing the battalion, Doesburg told the soldiers that in a few days “ninety-nine percent of you will go home for the holidays.” In reply to that he received a tremendous roar of approval.

Doesburg asked the soldiers to think about other soldiers who won’t be given the opportunity to spend time with their loved ones this year and to consider all service members and the sacrifices made for freedom.

“Think about them and think about being proud about being a soldier,” Doesburg said.

Pvt. Michael Coast, 18, from Company B, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, helped Doesburg pull the lever to turn on the tree lights.

A native of Pennsylvania, Coast said he was “pleasantly surprised” when told the honor would be his.

“I’m going home for Exodus,” Coast said, “but I’ll still remember Christmas on APG.”

Amazingly, Santa showed up at the Edgewood Area also, joking around with the soldiers and passing out candy to the little ones just like before.



Photo by SHEILA LITTLE

Soldiers from the 16th Ordnance Battalion gather around a festive tree and identified clockwise, starting at 2 o’clock are Pvts. Jumyi Chen, and Aurelio Torres, Pfc. Michael Hagen, and Pvts. Roger Clausen, Carl Michael, and Curtis Ingersoll.

A home for the holidays

ADOPT, from front page

holiday meal cooked by mom. That’s why the Adopt-A-Soldier Program is enjoyed by many NOEL Company soldiers each year.

Participating families are invited to sponsor one or two soldiers for a few hours or a few days. During the time the soldiers are “adopted,” they feel a part of the family by participating in family traditions.

Everyone benefits from the program. Adoptive families welcome soldiers for meals, Christmas tree expeditions, holiday parties, and church services. Participants include active duty military families, civilian employee families, military retirees, and those who simply hear about the program and open their homes. No military or APG affiliation is required, just a desire to share with others.

Mike and Mary Eilerman of Joppatowne welcomed two soldiers last Christmas, after reading about the program in the post newspaper. The Eilermans opened their home to additional family and friends for Christmas Eve, included the soldiers in the family gift exchange on Christmas Day, and invited them to a Ravens football game the following day. Eilerman, a former Marine, remembers the feeling of being alone for the holidays.

“I wish they would have had a program like Adopt-A-Soldier when I was in,” he said.

Cpt. Martin Griffith, this year’s NOEL company commander, encourages support for the program from APG and the surrounding community.

“The Adopt-A-Soldier Program is a good way for the people of our local community to show our young soldiers that their hard work and service to our country is appreciated, and that they are not forgotten during the holidays,” Griffith said.

If you’d like to live the spirit of Christmas this year, why not adopt a soldier? For information on how you can participate, call Bartholomew or Griffith, NOEL Company, 410-278-8582 or 8583.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

APG Garrison commander, Col. Robert J. Spidel, right, presents the 2000 Commander’s Cup Trophy to Maj. Dan D. Mielke, commander of the U.S. Marine Detachment during the awards ceremony at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center, Dec. 5. The detachment accumulated 208 points, winning five post championships to win the annual award sponsored by the Community Recreation Division’s Intramural Sports Program.